

## **God's Design for the Church – Exodus 18:9-27** **February 10, 2008 - Skip MacMillan**

### **God is doing great things**

God is growing Eternal both spiritually and numerically.

God is collecting a great group of people to be His church: honest, transparent and vulnerable.  
Atmosphere: God is creating a beautiful place, a safe place, a place where we can talk and deal with issues.

This is what God meant for the church. He designed and built it this way - Acts 2.

Worship increasing, singing, children, youth, missions, prayer and fasting, helping people, Mercy Ministries.

### **All do-able at 100, 200 but no so much at 300+**

Something has to change.

To keep the "feel," the relationships, care, and ability to help each other.

### **How is this supposed to work?**

My Small Group - Exodus 18

### **Exodus 18:9-27** (Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3, Ezekiel 34 and John 10)

### **God is doing great things – Exodus 18:1-12**

### **"Not Good" – Exodus 18:13-18**

1. Idol of Moses, pride on the part of Moses, this is a place only Christ can fill.  
Jesus Christ is our High Priest, Mediator, interceding on our behalf; not Moses.
2. Moses personally: exhaustion, burn out, overwhelmed, loss of spirit and energy, etc.
3. For the people's care, in a reasonable amount of time.

### **Moses' job description – Exodus 18:19-20**

#### **Pray**

"You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to Him" (18:19).

Jesus Christ is our High Priest today, our Mediator and Savior.

Moses is to pray for the people

#### **Teach**

"Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform" (Exodus 18:20).

### **Leader's job description – Exodus 18:21-22**

#### **Shepherd the People**

"But select capable men from all the people – (qualifications) men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials (role) over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves."

God's Design for the Church, 1 Timothy 3, Acts 6, Shepherding Ezekiel 34 and John 10.

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd (Ezekiel 34 and John 10).

Elders are to model Him.

Elders, Deacons, Small Group Leaders, Counselor, people in the congregation who want to help others. Not counselors but shepherds: listen, pray with, care for and share Scripture with you.

## **Why?**

"If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied" (Exodus 18:23).

Moses will remain healthy and close to the heart of God.  
The people will be satisfied, be cared for and loved.

## **Eternal's Design**

### **I was feeling the tension and God spoke, Exodus 18.**

Elders – men given spiritual oversight of the body of Eternal.

Deacons – men and women who manage our mercy ministries to those in need.

Small Group leaders – men and women who are gifted and care for those in the small group.

Counselor on staff.

Body of Christ – all of us caring for each other, speaking into each other's lives the words of Christ, listening, meeting with each other.

**Logistical**, cell number and e-mail changes.

### **My concerns**

We stop calling and talking on an honest level, stop or slow from seeking help.  
Pretend everything is alright and keep moving.

## **The Call**

*Who is the head of the Church? Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, no man, period!*

First thing to do is to seek God – God and You.  
Act of faith, belief, and trusting in God.

Then pick up the phone and call someone in the community of Eternal.

## **We must all seek the LORD first and foremost because He is:**

Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1)

All & in All (Col. 3:11)

Almighty (Rev. 1:8)

Anchor (Heb. 6:19) and Rock [of offence] (Deut. 32:15; 1 Cor. 10:4; Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:8)

Alpha & Omega (Rev. 1:8; 21:6)

Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2)

Shepherd and Overseer of your souls (1 Pet. 2:25)

Bright & Morning Star

The radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being (Heb. 1:3)

Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:12; Josh. 5:4)

Comforter (Isa. 61:2; Jn. 14:16)

Counselor (Isa. 9:6; Isa. 40:13)

Creator of all things (Col. 1:16)

Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)

Desire of all nations (Hag. 2:7)

Emmanuel – God with us (Mt. 1:23; see also Isa. 7:14; 8:8)

Faithful - Witness (Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 19:11); Faithful & True (Rev. 19:11)

Our Foundation (Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 3:11)

Friend of sinners (Mt. 11:19; Lk. 7:34)  
Gift of God (Jn. 4:10; 2 Cor. 9:15)  
Glory of God (Isa. 60:1)  
God (Jn. 1:1; Mt. 1:23; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:8)  
Great and Merciful High Priest (Heb. 2:17, 4:14)  
Our Guide (Ps. 48:14)  
The Head (even Christ) (Eph. 4:15)  
Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)  
Our Helper (Heb. 13:6)  
Hiding Place (Isa. 32:2)  
Holy One [& the Just] (Acts 2:27; 3:14)  
Hope of Israel (Jer. 17:3)  
I AM (Jn. 8:24, 58)  
Intercessor (Heb. 7:25)  
Judge (Micah 5:1; Acts 10:42)  
Just One (Acts 7:52)  
King (Zech. 14:16)  
Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36; 1 Pet 1:19; Rev. 5:6, 12; 7:17)  
Life (1 Jn. 1:2)  
Light (Jn. 12:35)  
Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)  
Lord [& Saviour] (1 Cor. 12:3; 2 Pet. 1:11), see also Master.  
Master (Mt. 8:19)  
Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)  
Messiah (Dan. 9:25; Jn. 1:41; 4:25)  
Mighty God (Isa. 9:6; 63:1)  
Passover (1 Cor. 5:7)  
Peace, our (Eph. 2:14)  
Physician (Mt. 9:12; Lk. 4:23)  
Prophet (Acts 3:22-23)  
Propitiation (1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10)  
The Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)  
Our Ransom (1 Tim. 2:6)  
Redeemer (Isa. 59:20; 60:16; 1 Cor. 1:30)  
Refuge (Isa. 25:4)  
The Resurrection & the Life (Jn. 11:25)  
Our Righteousness, holiness and redemption (Jer. 23:6; 33:16; 1 Cor. 1:30)  
Sacrifice (Eph. 5:2)  
Savior of the world (Lk. 1:47; 2:11; 1 Jn. 4:14)  
The Great Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)  
Teacher (Mt. 26:18; Jn. 3:2; 11:28)  
Truth (Jn. 14:6)  
Way (Jn. 14:6)  
Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24, 30) Wonderful (Isa. 9:6) Word (Jn. 1:1)

**That is why we seek Him first and foremost.  
He is the answer to our soul.**